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Validictory address

~~Delivered~~ Feb. 29th

1812

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Here. Gentlemen - we conclude our
lectures for the present year. In re-
-viewing the course which I have de-
-livered, I have to lament its imper-
-fections partly from my inability to
do justice to the difficult branches of
medicine which I have ~~attempted to~~ ^{have been}
~~attempted to teach,~~ ^{attempted to teach,} and partly to the li-
-mits that are assigned to our lectures
by the laws of the University.

Medicine has been studied & practised
in three ways. 1. as a drama, in which
men act a solemn and formal part in
sick rooms without either knowledge or
skill in the profession they exercise. 2nd ~~as~~

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2^d It has been studied and ~~practised~~ ^{practised} as a trade
in which the Acquisition of Wealth is the
only Object of a Physicians pursuit, and to
which he sacrifices all Considerations of hu-
-manity, ^{friendship} justice and patriotism. Lastly it
has been ~~studied~~ ^{studied} & practised as a science.
— In this Case, a physician ~~can~~ observes,
reads - thinks - and reasons, and prefers
the health and ^{lives} life of his patients and
the advancement of his profession to pri-
-vate interest, or temporary reputation.
— I have endeavoured to teach the ~~the~~
practice of medicine in the last way that
has been mentioned. In my Attempts to
do so, I have delivered a number of new
principles founded upon facts that ~~are~~

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3 are
in many instances, ^a obvious to the senses,
and that have been obtained upon me
by the phenomenon of diseases which are
peculiar to the United States. These princi-
ples, when first delivered, fell apparently
still born from this Chair. They soon
however revived, but under such un-
favourable circumstances as to be
~~driven~~ ^{thrust} from the arms, & even driven
from the doors of most of the citizens
of Philadelphia. For many years
they rambled up and down our streets
like ^{ragged} ~~little~~ beggar boys with no other sup-
-port than what they received from my
scanty store, and the charity of ~~one~~ ^{two} or

[Faint, illegible handwriting in cursive script, likely a letter or manuscript page.]

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these medical friends. From the shelter,
clothing and substance thus afforded
them, and from gratuitous supplies from
other quarters, they have acquired such
a healthy and vigorous constitution,
that they have been admitted into the
hospitals, and taken into the service of
most of the families in our City. But
to drop our simile. The ~~unpopular~~
and odious remedies which were sugges-
-ted by the principles I have taught,
(and which were opposed with a fury
that was compared by a Chrysostom
in a neighbouring state to "the opening
of the mouth of a bell against them")

[Faint, illegible handwriting in cursive script, likely a letter or manuscript page.]

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generally
have been adopted, and have become ~~the~~
in ~~many~~ instances the domestic medicines
of ~~many~~ the persons who formerly ~~op-~~
~~posed~~ dreaded and opposed them. It is true
the principles which suggested ^{those remedies} ~~these~~ are
still unpopular, but they must sooner
or later follow them, for they are so
intimately related, that ~~they~~ ^{the latter} cannot
exist ~~in~~ independantly of the former.

In thus mentioning the happy
issue of the studies ~~of~~ and labors of my
life, I should feel myself criminal,
did I not ~~thus~~ acknowledge in this pub-
-lic manner the goodness of that Being
who has condescended to ~~be~~ ^{employ} ~~me~~
N



a weak and ~~so~~ unworthy instrument
~~displeased & humble that he gave~~
~~for the benefit of his creatures~~, for the
purpose of ^{increasing the means of} promoting the health ^{and} of
happiness of his creatures. But my ob-
-ligations do not stop here. I owe much
to ~~my~~ several of my brethren in
this city and in other parts of the United
States, also to many of my pupils for
a number of useful facts & hints by
which ^{my} principles have been supported, corrected
and extended far beyond my original
ideas of their application or usefulness.
nor will I conceal in the last place
my obligations to the talents, learning
and ingenuity of the gentlemen who
have opposed ~~it in~~ ^{to} my system of



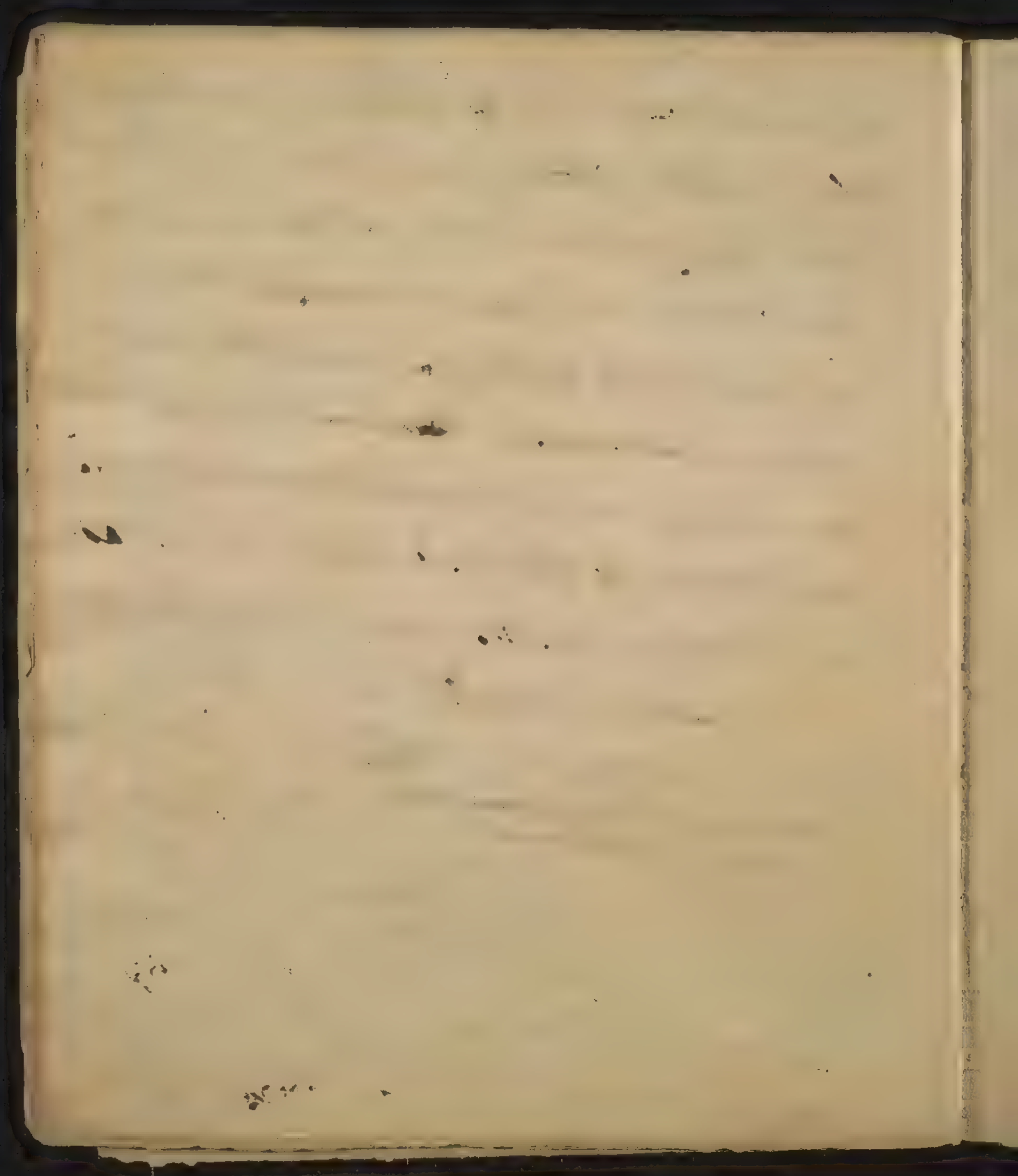
of medicine in all its stages, for ^{a large} ~~much~~
~~of the~~ ^{a large} ~~good~~ share of the favourable re-
- ceptions it has met with from the
public. They have pointed out its weak
parts, and have by that means ~~been~~
aid me, ^{by multiplying} ~~to see for~~ facts, ^{by means of} ~~for~~ reading &
observation, to defend those parts, and
thus to render the whole system more
acceptable and useful. For the important
aid and support ~~it has~~ ^{that} they have given
it, I thus publicly offer them ^{very}
most grateful acknowledgments, ^{accompanied with} ~~with~~
a request that they will continue to
favour it with their ingenuities, and
salutary animadversions.
The Roman Artists whom they
engraved



their names upon their works, always added
a word that denoted that they believed them
to be imperfect. It was "pingebat," or "fai-
-ebat," not posuit - nor fecit. In like
manner I thus publicly inscribed
the imperfect tense upon the system of
medicine which I ^{have} taught. It will
not account for many of the phenomena
of the Animal Economy, — it will not
explain the cause of many morbid states
of the body, nor does it provide a cure
for several of the most distressing dis-
-eases which afflict the human body.
— I have made this Declaration Gent?
with a view to call upon you to take
charge of the Defective & unfinished



labor of my hands. The year that I
have passed, ~~often~~ remind me that I must
^{shortly} retire from this Chair. The time of
this event is known only to the great
Arbiter of life & death, but did I believe
this would be the ~~the~~ last time I should
ever address a Class of Students of medicine,
my parting advice to them should be,
Cultivate - Cultivate - cultivate
principles in medicine. [To these,
the United States owe ^{the} their reputation in
[~~For the late Dr. Boddaert~~
~~foreign countries~~ they have acquired
in our Science in foreign countries.
The discoveries which are made by them
are not fortuitous, or transient. They
do not consist in ephemeral
publications



of ~~conjectured~~ ¹⁰ cures of diseases by new remedies.
[They] Long may this character of
our country continue to be merited,
and may the ~~recognition of our~~ discovery
of new principles ^{in medicine} consign some old
error to ~~oblivion~~ oblivion, and establish
some new truth in ~~medicine~~ every year,
until our globe shall perform its last
annual revolution and time itself
shall be no more.

I cannot take leave of you Gent^l
without regretting that the ~~inconvenience~~ ^{inconvenience}
of my engagements ^{during the winter} have prevented
my cultivating a greater intercourse
with you. I have lost I am sure
both pleasure and improvement by
my want of leisure for that purpose.

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Accept of my thanks for the ^{patient} ~~respect~~
and regular
~~for~~ ^{attention} ~~and punctuality~~ with
which you have been pleased to honour
these lectures, and of my most af-
fectionate wishes for your ~~triumph~~
success in your profession, and
for your personal happiness.

[Faint, illegible handwriting]

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